

# "Perspectives on the ISIL Crisis for Saudi Arabia"

Dr. Janet Breslin-Smith



Throughout her 30-year career in public service, Dr. Janet E. Breslin-Smith held leadership roles in the U.S. Senate, professional military higher education, and outreach to women in business and higher education in the Middle East. She has written and lectured on cross cultural understanding, women's empowerment, strategic planning and is the author of *The National War College: A History of Strategic Thinking in Peace and War*. Dr. Breslin-Smith was Professor of National Security Studies for 14 years at the National War College within the National Defense University, and she was the first woman to chair the Department of National Security. Prior to her academic career, she served for over 17 years in the U.S. Senate, where she was senior advisor on defense and foreign policy, appropriations, trade and federal/state relations. Accompanying her husband, Ambassador James Smith, to Saudi Arabia in 2009, Dr. Breslin-Smith developed extensive contacts with women leaders in business, medicine and higher education. Upon her return from Riyadh, she continued her work with Saudi women, and is launching Crossroads Strategy Consulting and assisting Saudi women professionals in career development. Dr. Breslin-Smith earned her Ph.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles and her undergraduate degree in International Relations from the University of Southern California. She and her husband are currently writing a book on their years in Saudi Arabia tentatively titled, *Two Sides of the Veil: Living the Mystery of Saudi Arabia*.

**Tuesday, 9 December 2014, 1330-1500**

**Gray Research Center, Auditorium  
2040 Broadway Street, MCB Quantico**

For more information about the MES AY 2014-15 Lecture Series, or to RSVP, please contact Adam C Seitz, Senior Research Associate for Middle East Studies at MCU, at (703) 432-5260 or [seitzac@grc.usmcu.edu](mailto:seitzac@grc.usmcu.edu).